

The Random Jottings of Donald Jay from Nelson in Pendle.

JONAS LEE

Jonas Lee, Extwistle Moor, A Man of Remarkable Character and Eccentricity

Introduction: Jonas Lee, a man of remarkable character and eccentricity, was born in the picturesque Valley of Thorsdean. Blessed with a robust constitution and a herculean frame, he possessed extraordinary endurance and strength. Known for his exceptional mowing skills and his ability to carry heavy loads, Jonas Lee left an indelible mark on his community. Moreover, his unconventional approach to preaching and his dedication to his beliefs further distinguished him. Although circumstances forced him to leave his beloved mountain farm, his legacy as an honest and persevering individual continues to inspire generations.

Body:

Physical Strength and Endurance: Jonas Lee's physical prowess was widely admired by his neighbors. He was known for his exceptional mowing abilities, often compared to the speed of an elderly woman walking. His physical strength was also demonstrated through his ability to carry a sack of coals on his back from the pit on Marsden Height to his mountain home at "Jerusalem" on Extwistle Moor, s. These remarkable feats of endurance showcased his determination and the impressive limits of his physical capabilities.

Unconventional Preaching Style: In addition to his physical abilities, Jonas Lee possessed a unique approach to preaching the gospel. His sermons were known for their peculiar choice of texts. On one occasion, he derived inspiration from a cart wheel, using it as a metaphor to represent Christ as the central hub and the apostles as the supporting spokes. Such unconventional interpretations served to engage his audience and spark their imagination, leaving a lasting impact on their spiritual lives.

Vision and Labor: Jonas Lee's passion for his beliefs extended beyond preaching. He undertook the construction of Thorsden Chapel, which, although now in ruins, stands as a testament to his vision and dedication. Moreover, he personally enclosed "Jerusalem Farm," named after his own distinctive style, with the stones laboriously transported by a bull-drawn cart, reminiscent of the traditions of old patriarchs. His commitment to building both a place of worship and a farm demonstrated his unwavering perseverance and his willingness to invest significant effort into his endeavors.

Honesty and Integrity: Jonas Lee was revered for his sterling honesty. His actions consistently aligned with his words, and he became a role model for integrity within the community.

Regardless of the challenges he faced, he remained steadfast in his principles, a testament to his unwavering moral character.

Conclusion:

Jonas Lee, a man of extraordinary character and eccentricity, left an indelible mark on his community. His remarkable physical abilities, coupled with his unconventional preaching style, made him a memorable figure. His dedication to building Thorsden Chapel and Jerusalem Farm showcased his unwavering perseverance and commitment. Although circumstances compelled him to leave his cherished mountain home, his legacy as an honest and principled individual lives on. Jonas Lee continues to inspire generations with his remarkable achievements and his enduring spirit.

By Donald Jay